

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
Not only do I agree with what the PIRG is stating here, I was having a discussion this afternoon about how the only thing that seems to be in the news of late is the military records of Bush and Kerry. You know what? Right about now I could care less. What they did or didn't do in the military doesn't concern me as much as what they are going to do for the future of this country. I am sick and tired of hearing nothing but slander campaigns. All I want to hear is...What are the issues and where do each candidate stand for those issues. How they feel about the issues is what will make me decide, not their stupid military records. Besides...they're politicians. To me they're most likely lying anyway.

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Saunders
126 Towler Shoals Dr
Loganville, GA 300523283